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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

COMINT REPORT

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DRY AIR DEFENSE UNIT REPORTS AIRCRAFT SHOOTDOWNS AND PILOT CAPTURE, 5 MAY 1968

INTRODUCTION

ON 7 MAY 1966, VIIF MULTICHANNEL RADIO RELAY COMMUNICATIONS
SERVING THE DRV SAM FACILITIES CONTAINED A REFERENCE TO THE SHOOTDOWN OF TWO AIRCRAFT AND THE SUBSEQUENT CAPTURE OF ONE PILOT ON
5 MAY.

DETAILS

ON 7 MAY, AN UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER INFORMED AN AIR DEFENSE FACILITY ASSOCIATED WITH SAM ELEMENTS AND BELIEVED TO BE LOCATED IN THE VINH AREA OF A MESSAGE SENT TO ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED, UNLOCATED FACILITY CONCERNING THE SHOOTDOWN OF TWO AIRCRAFT ON 5 MAY. THE MESSAGE READ IN PART, "TO ALL OF THE CADRE AT F.-3 ((UNIDENTIFIED/UNLOCATED)) ON THE FIFTH OF MAY. EVERYONE WAS ACTIVE IN FIGHTING THE ENEMY AT THAT TIME. DURING THE FIRST FEW MINUTES ((THEY)) SHOT DOWN...ONE (?RF-L)?) ((AIRCRAFT TYPE UNCLEAR))... ((AND)) CAPTURED A PLIOT. WHEN THE ENEMY AIRCRAFT CAME TO RESCUE HIM, THE UNIT SHOT DOWN ANOTHER ONE..."

TENTATIVE AIR SURVEILLANCE REFLECTIONS OF WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN THE AIRCRAFT REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE COMMUNICATIONS AS HAVING BEEN SHOT DOWN WERE INTERCEPTED ON 5 MAY FROM THE DRV AIR SURVEILLANCE FACILITY LOCATED AT VINH. THE VINH FACILITY WAS NOTED TRACKING A FLIGHT OF TWO UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFF AT AN ALTITUDE OF 9,842 FEET ACTIVE IN AN AREA NORTH OF VINH. THE FLIGHT WAS INITIALLY NOTED AT 19-02N 105-17E AT 0548Z AND WAS TRACKED ON A GENERAL COURSE HEADING EAST TO 18-55N 105-57E, OVER THE GULF OF TONKIN AT 0554Z. AT THIS POINT THE FLIGHT REVERSED ITS HEADING AND FLEW TO A FINAL NOTED POSITION, OVER THE DRV LANDMASS AT

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2/0/VCK/R65-66

18-52N 105-30E AT 0629Z. AN "END OF TRACK" MESSAGE FOR THIS FLIGHT WAS PASSED AT 0632Z.

COMMENTS

COLLATERAL INFORMATION INDICATES AN RF-8E, WAS DOWNED BY "37 MM FLAK FROM A GUN POSITION AT 18-45N 105-23E" DURING THE 0600Z HOUR ON 5 MAY. RESCUE AIRCRAFT WERE REPORTEDLY DRIVEN FROM THE AREA DUE TO INTENSE SMALL ARMS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE AND THE PILOTS OBSERVED "OVER 1000 PERSONS WITHIN A QUARTER MILE OF THE DOWNED PILOT'S POSITION."